DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 058 962 PS 005 381

TITLE Day Care: Everybody's Problem.
INSTITUTION Office of Child Development (DHEW), Washington, D.C.
PUB DATE 71
NOTE 6p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS Children; *Community Coordination; Coordination; *Day Care Programs; Day Care Services; Federal Aid; *Preschool Children; *Problem Solving; Statistical Data; *Volunteers; Working Women

ABSTRACT

This document reports on statistics regarding the need for day care facilities for children under the age of six. It also gives suggestions for making better use of local day care resources. Statistics show that: (1) There are more than 5 million children in this country under the age of 6 whose mothers work; (2) There are licensed day care facilities for only 600,000 of these children; and (3) Approximately 1 million school-age children must care for themselves while their parents work. Steps which can help make quality care available for all of these children include: (1) coordination of local day care resources, (2) the building of a 4-C Program, i.e. a federally assisted Community Coordinated Child Care program, and (3) organizing and training volunteers in the community. (CK)

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DAY CARE

everybody's problem

**VOLUNTEER
TO HELP
IN YOUR
COMMUNITY**

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OUR DAY CARE CRISIS -- everybody's

- There are more than 5 million children in this country under the age of 6 whose mothers work.
- There are licensed day care facilities for only 600,000 of these children.
- There may be as many as a million school-age children who must care for themselves while their parents work. These children are often called "latchkey children."
- A recent Department of Labor study of unemployed and underemployed women in 6 high poverty areas disclosed that two out of five slum residents who were not employed but who wanted regular jobs gave their inability to arrange day care for their children as the main reason for not looking for work.

Quality day care could give these individuals the opportunity to work and provide their children with a comprehensive child development experience which could help them to reach their full potential.

- The lack of quality day care is a problem for middle- and upper-income families as well.

With buildings, money, resources, and qualified personnel to man day care centers in woefully short supply, what can be done to improve both the quality and quantity of day care services?

coordination--the key

Communities can do a great deal to make better use of their day care resources through a **coordination** of local efforts. Coordination mobilizes the skills of people to help all programs, eliminates wasteful competition, improves training opportunities, saves dollars, and increases the availability and use of volunteers.

Congress believes coordination is so important that it has instructed the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Office of Economic Opportunity to find a way to **relate** the various child care services which receive Federal assistance—public, voluntary, or commercial at the Federal, State, and local levels. This includes, but is not limited to, services funded through public welfare agencies, boards of education, and community action agencies.

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4-C--a major step to coordination

Recommended to States and communities is a plan of action called the Community Coordinated Child Care, or the 4-C, Program. It provides a means by which all community child care organizations can work together—they might plan programs together, exchange staff and equipment, share training programs, arrange joint procurement of supplies, or share administrative personnel. These are just a few ways—but all coordination efforts have one purpose: expanded and improved services to children and their families.

A 4-C Program may also concern itself with other services to children, such as preschool programs, child protective services, and foster care.

HOW YOU CAN HELP BUILD A 4-C PROGRAM

Someone—or some organization in each community—must take the lead in building a 4-C Program. This means groups of concerned citizens, volunteering their time, seeking out support, planning and working together.

what can you do?

1 The first step is to contact nearby, familiar sources—the head of your welfare department, public schools, community action agency, Head Start program, model cities agency, your mayor or governor's office; also, recreation department, health and welfare council, council of churches, etc. Encourage these agencies to work with interested citizens in forming a 4-C Program.

2 Form a 4-C Booster Committee. Get interested citizens to sit down together and explore facts about child development and day care service. Learn all you can about the children reached, the quality and kinds of services offered, the improvements needed.

3 Organize and train the volunteers in your community:

- to provide needed volunteer manpower and womanpower to work with day care and other child-serving programs.
- to assist welfare departments in placing children in day care best suited to their individual needs.
- to recruit day care staff and arrange for training.
- to raise funds and donations for toys, equipment, and other special needs.
- to help get needed medical and social services into day care programs.
- to encourage business and industry to provide day care facilities for employees.
- to assist in a communitywide survey of child care needs and resources.

What are the day care opportunities for volunteers in your community?

For further 4-C information, write to the Office of Child Development, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C. 20201, or contact the Office of Child Development in the nearest HEW Regional Office.

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OFFICE of CHILD DEVELOPMENT

CHILDREN'S BUREA
Revised 1971

☆ GPO :1971—O-428-643